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(54) Title: PROTEASE CONJUGATES (57) Abstract <p>The present invention relates to subtilisin protease conjugates comprising a protease moiety and one or more addition moieties wherein the protease moiety has a modified amino acid sequence of a parent amino acid sequence, the parent amino acid sequence comprising a first epitope region, a second epitope region, and a third epitope region, wherein the modified amino acid sequence comprises a substitution by a substituting amino acid at one or more positions in one or more of the epitope regions and wherein each addition moiety is covalently attached to one of the substituting moieties. The present invention further relates to cleaning and personal care compositions comprising such protease conjugates.</p>		

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PROTEASE CONJUGATES

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to subtilisin protease conjugates and compositions comprising the conjugates which have decreased immunogenicity relative to their corresponding parent proteases.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Enzymes make up the largest class of naturally occurring proteins. One class of enzyme includes proteases which catalyze the hydrolysis of other proteins. This ability to hydrolyze proteins has typically been exploited by incorporating naturally occurring and protein engineered proteases into cleaning compositions, particularly those relevant to laundry applications.

In the cleaning arts, the mostly widely utilized of these proteases are the serine proteases. Most of these serine proteases are produced by bacterial organisms while some are produced by other organisms, such as fungi. See Siezen et al., "Homology Modelling and Protein Engineering Strategy of Subtilases, the Family of Subtilisin-Like Serine Proteases", *Protein Engineering*, Vol. 4, No. 7, pp. 719 - 737 (1991). Unfortunately, the efficacy of the wild-type proteases in their natural environment frequently does not translate into the unnatural cleaning composition environment. Specifically, protease characteristics such as, for example, thermal stability, pH stability, oxidative stability, and substrate specificity are not necessarily optimized for utilization outside the natural environment of the protease.

Several approaches have been employed to alter the wild-type amino acid sequence of serine proteases with the goal of increasing the efficacy of the protease in the unnatural wash environment. These approaches include the genetic redesign and / or chemical modification of proteases to enhance thermal stability and to improve oxidation stability under quite diverse conditions.

However, because such proteases are foreign to mammals, they are potential antigens. As antigens, these proteases cause immunogenic and / or allergenic responses (herein collectively described as immunogenic responses) in mammals. In fact,

sensitization to serine proteases has been observed in environments wherein humans are regularly exposed to the proteases. Such environments include manufacturing facilities, wherein workers are exposed to the proteases through such vehicles as uncontrolled dust or aerosolization. Aerosolization can result by the introduction of the protease into the lung, which is the route of protease exposure which causes the most dangerous response. Protease sensitization can also occur in the marketplace, wherein consumers' repeated use of products containing proteases may cause an immunogenic response.

Furthermore, while genetic redesign and chemical modification of proteases has been prominent in the continuing search for more highly effective proteases for laundry applications, such proteases have been minimally utilized in personal care compositions and light duty detergents. A primary reason for the absence of these proteases in products such as, for example, soaps, gels, body washes, and shampoos, is due to the aforementioned problem of human sensitization leading to undesirable immunogenic responses. It would therefore be highly advantageous to provide a personal care composition which provides the cleansing properties of proteases without the provocation of an immunogenic response.

Presently, immunogenic responses to proteases may be minimized by immobilizing, granulating, coating, or dissolving chemically modified proteases to avoid their becoming airborne. These methods, while addressing consumer exposure to airborne proteases, still present the risks associated with extended tissue contact with the finished composition and worker exposure to protease-containing dust or aerosol during manufacturing.

In the medical field, suggestions have been made to diminish the immunogenicity of enzymes through yet another method. This method involves attaching polymers to enzymes. See, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 4,179,337, Davis, et al., issued December 18, 1979 and PCT Application WO 96/17929, Olsen, et al., published June 13, 1996.

One approach toward decreasing the immunogenic activity of a protease is through alleviation of the immunogenic properties of epitopes. Epitopes are those amino acid regions of an antigen which evoke an immune response through the binding of antibodies or the presentation of processed antigens to T cells *via* a major histocompatibility complex protein (MHC). Changes in the epitopes can affect their

efficiency as an antigen. See Walsh, B.J. and M.E.H. Howden, "A Method for the Detection of IgE Binding Sequences of Allergens Based on a Modification of Epitope Mapping", *Journal of Immunological Methods*, Vol. 121, pp. 275 - 280 (1989).

The present inventors have discovered that those serine proteases commonly known as subtilisins, including subtilisin BPN', have prominent epitope regions at amino acid positions 70 - 84, 103 - 126, and 217 - 252 corresponding to subtilisin BPN'. The present inventors have herein chemically modified such subtilisins at one or more of these epitope regions to alleviate the immunogenic properties of the protease. In so doing, the active site of the protease is minimally affected. The present inventors have therefore discovered subtilisin-like proteases which evoke a decreased immunogenic response yet maintain their activity as an efficient and active protease. Accordingly, the present protease conjugates are suitable for use in several types of compositions including, but not limited to, laundry, dish, hard surface, skin care, hair care, beauty care, oral care, and contact lens compositions.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

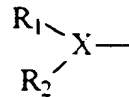
The present invention relates to subtilisin protease conjugates comprising a protease moiety and one or more addition moieties wherein:

(a) the protease moiety has a modified amino acid sequence of a parent amino acid sequence, the parent amino acid sequence comprising a first epitope region, a second epitope region, and a third epitope region, wherein the modified amino acid sequence comprises a substitution by a substituting amino acid at one or more positions in one or more of the epitope regions wherein:

- (i) when a substitution occurs in the first epitope region, the substitution occurs at one or more positions corresponding to positions 70 - 84 of subtilisin BPN';
- (ii) when a substitution occurs in the second epitope region, the substitution occurs at one or more positions corresponding to positions 103 - 126 of subtilisin BPN'; and

(iii) when a substitution occurs in the third epitope region, the substitution occurs at one or more positions corresponding to positions 217 - 252 of subtilisin BPN'; and

(b) wherein each of the addition moieties is covalently attached to one of the substituting amino acids present on the protease moiety and has the structure:



wherein X is selected from the group consisting of nil and a linking moiety; R₁ is selected from the group consisting of nil, a first polypeptide, and a first polymer; and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of nil, a second polypeptide, and a second polymer; wherein at least one of X, R₁, and R₂ is not nil. The present invention further relates to cleaning and personal care compositions comprising such protease conjugates.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The essential components of the present invention are herein described below. Also included are non-limiting descriptions of various optional and preferred components useful in embodiments of the present invention.

The present invention can comprise, consist of, or consist essentially of any of the required or optional components and / or limitations described herein.

All percentages and ratios are calculated by weight unless otherwise indicated. All percentages are calculated based on the total composition unless otherwise indicated.

All component or composition levels are in reference to the active level of that component or composition, and are exclusive of impurities, for example, residual solvents or by-products, which may be present in commercially available sources.

All documents referred to herein, including all patents, patent applications, and printed publications, are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

Referred to herein are trade names for materials including, but not limited to, enzymes. The inventors herein do not intend to be limited by materials under a certain trade name. Equivalent materials (e.g., those obtained from a different source under a different name or catalog (reference) number) to those referenced by trade name may be substituted and utilized in the protease conjugates and compositions herein.

As used herein, abbreviations will be used to describe amino acids. Table I provides a list of abbreviations used herein:

Table I

<u>Amino Acid</u>	<u>Three-letter Abbreviation</u>	<u>One-letter Abbreviation</u>
Alanine	Ala	A
Arginine	Arg	R
Asparagine	Asn	N
Aspartic Acid	Asp	D
Cysteine	Cys	C
Glutamine	Gln	Q
Glutamic Acid	Glu	E
Glycine	Gly	G
Histidine	His	H
Isoleucine	Ile	I
Leucine	Leu	L
Lysine	Lys	K
Methionine	Met	M
Phenylalanine	Phe	F
Proline	Pro	P
Serine	Ser	S
Threonine	Thr	T
Tryptophan	Trp	W
Tyrosine	Tyr	Y
Valine	Val	V

Definitions

As used herein, the term "mutation" refers to alterations in gene sequences and amino acid sequences produced by those gene sequences. Mutations include deletions, substitutions, and additions of amino acid residues to the wild-type protein sequence.

As used herein, the term "parent" refers to an enzyme, wild-type or variant.

As used herein, the term "wild-type" refers to a protein, for example a protease or other enzyme, produced by unmutated organisms.

As used herein, the term "variant" means an enzyme having an amino acid sequence which differs from that of the corresponding wild-type enzyme due to the genetic mutation of the nucleotide sequences coding for that enzyme or the mutation of the wild-type enzyme itself.

As used herein, all polymer molecular weights are expressed as weight average molecular weights.

As referred to herein, while the conjugates of the present invention are not limited to those comprising subtilisin BPN' and variants thereof, all amino acid numbering is with reference to the amino acid sequence for subtilisin BPN' which is represented by SEQ ID NO:1. The amino acid sequence for subtilisin BPN' is further described by Wells et al., *Nucleic Acids Research*, Vol. II, pp. 7911 - 7925 (1983).

Protease Conjugates of the Present Invention

The protease conjugates of the present invention are compounds which comprise a protease moiety and one or more addition moieties, wherein the protease moiety and the addition moieties are connected *via* covalent bonding.

Protease Moieties

The protease moieties herein have a modified amino acid sequence of a parent amino acid sequence. The parent amino acid sequences herein are serine proteases, either wild-type or variants thereof. As used herein, the term "serine protease" means a protease which has at least 50%, and preferably 80%, amino acid sequence identity with the sequences of one or more subtilisin-like serine proteases. Wild-type subtilisin-like serine proteases are produced by, for example, *Bacillus alcalophilus*, *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*, *Bacillus amylosaccharicus*, *Bacillus licheniformis*, *Bacillus lentus*, and *Bacillus subtilis* microorganisms. A discussion relating to subtilisin-like serine proteases and their homologies may be found in Siezen et al., "Homology Modelling and Protein Engineering Strategy of Subtilases, the Family of Subtilisin-Like Serine Proteases", *Protein Engineering*, Vol. 4, No. 7, pp. 719 - 737 (1991).

Preferred parent amino acid sequences for use herein include, for example, those obtained from *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*, *Bacillus licheniformis*, and *Bacillus subtilis*, subtilisin BPN, subtilisin BPN', subtilisin Carlsberg, subtilisin DY, subtilisin 309, proteinase K, and thermitase, including A/S Alcalase® (commercially available from Novo Industries, Copenhagen, Denmark), Esperase® (Novo Industries), Savinase® (Novo Industries), Maxatase® (commercially available from Gist-Brocades, Delft, Netherlands), Maxacal® (Gist-Brocades), Maxapem 15® (Gist-Brocades), and variants of the foregoing. Especially preferred proteases for use herein include those obtained from *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* and variants thereof. The most preferred proteases for use as protease moieties herein are subtilisin BPN' and variants thereof.

Especially preferred variants of subtilisin BPN', hereinafter referred to as "Protease A", for use as parent amino acid sequences herein are disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,030,378, Venegas, issued July 9, 1991, as characterized by the subtilisin BPN' amino acid sequence with the following mutations:

- (a) Gly at position 166 is substituted with an amino acid residue selected from Asn, Ser, Lys, Arg, His, Gln, Ala and Glu; Gly at position 169 is substituted with Ser; and Met at position 222 is substituted with an amino acid residue selected from Gln, Phe, His, Asn, Glu, Ala and Thr; or
- (b) Gly at position 160 is substituted with Ala, and Met at position 222 is substituted with Ala.

Additionally preferred variants of subtilisin BPN', hereinafter referred to as "Protease B", for use as parent amino acid sequences herein are disclosed in EP-B-251,446, assigned to Genencor International, Inc., published January 7, 1988, granted December 28, 1994, as characterized by the wild-type subtilisin BPN' amino acid sequence with mutations at one or more of the following positions: Tyr21, Thr22, Ser24, Asp36, Ala45, Ala48, Ser49, Met50, His67, Ser87, Lys94, Val95, Gly97, Ser101, Gly102, Gly103, Ile107, Gly110, Met 124, Gly127, Gly128, Pro129, Leu135, Lys170, Tyr171, Pro172, Asp197, Met199, Ser204, Lys213, Tyr214, Gly215, and Ser221; or two or more of the positions listed above combined with one or more mutations at positions

selected from Asp32, Ser33, Tyr104, Ala152, Asn155, Glu156, Gly166, Gly169, Phe189, Tyr217, and Met222.

Other preferred subtilisin BPN' variants for use as parent amino acid sequences herein are hereinafter referred to as "Protease C", and are described in WO 95/10615, assigned to Genencor International Inc., published April 20, 1995, as characterized by the wild-type subtilisin BPN' amino acid sequence with a mutation to position Asn76, in combination with mutations in one or more other positions selected from Asp99, Ser101, Gln103, Tyr104, Ser105, Ile107, Asn109, Asn123, Leu126, Gly127, Gly128, Leu135, Glu156, Gly166, Glu195, Asp197, Ser204, Gln206, Pro210, Ala216, Tyr217, Asn218, Met222, Ser260, Lys265, and Ala274.

Other preferred subtilisin BPN' variants for use as parent amino acid sequences herein, hereinafter referred to as "Protease D", are described in U.S. Patent No. 4,760,025, Estell et al., July 26, 1988, as characterized by the wild-type subtilisin BPN' amino acid sequence with mutations to one or more amino acid positions selected from the group consisting of Asp32, Ser33, His64, Tyr104, Asn155, Glu156, Gly166, Gly169, Phe189, Tyr217, and Met222.

The more preferred proteases for use as parent amino acid sequences herein are selected from the group consisting of Alcalase[®], subtilisin BPN', Protease A, Protease B, Protease C, and Protease D, with Protease D being the most preferred.

In accordance with the present invention, the parent amino acid sequence is substituted at one or more of the parent amino acid residues with a substituting amino acid to produce a (precursor to a) protease moiety suitable for attachment with one or more of the present addition moieties. The substitution should be made at one or more positions in one or more of the epitope regions which have been discovered by the present inventors. The present inventors have discovered three epitope regions, one occurring at positions 70 - 84 corresponding to subtilisin BPN' (the first epitope region), one occurring at positions 103 - 126 corresponding to subtilisin BPN' (the second epitope region), and one occurring at positions 217 - 252 of subtilisin BPN' (the third epitope region). In another embodiment of the invention, the protease moiety comprises a substitution at one or more positions in two or more of the epitope regions (*i.e.*, one or

more substitutions occurring in each of two or all three of the epitope regions). In yet another embodiment of the invention, the protease comprises a substitution at one or more positions in each of the three epitope regions (*i.e.*, one or more substitutions occurring in each of all three of the epitope regions). Most preferably, the parent amino acid sequence is substituted at one or more of the parent amino acid residues wherein at least one of the substitutions occurs in the first epitope region.

Wherein a substitution occurs in the first epitope region, the substitution occurs at one or more of positions 70 - 84, more preferably positions one or more of positions 73 - 81, and most preferably at position 78. Wherein a substitution occurs in the second epitope region, the substitution occurs at one or more of positions 106 - 126, more preferably one or more of positions 106 - 120, and most preferably at position 116. Wherein a substitution occurs in the third epitope region, the substitution occurs at one or more of positions 217 - 254, more preferably one or more of positions 236 - 254, and most preferably at position 240.

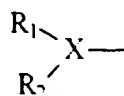
In order to best achieve selective attachment (*i.e.*, selective attachment in one or more of the epitope regions) of one or more addition moieties of the present invention to the protease moiety, the substitution should be with a substituting amino acid which does not occur in (is unique to) the parent amino acid sequence. In this respect, any substituting amino acid which is unique to the parent amino acid sequence may be utilized. For example, because a cysteine residue does not occur in the wild-type amino acid sequence for subtilisin BPN', a substitution of subtilisin BPN' with one or more cysteine residues in one or more of the epitope regions is suitable for the present invention. Wherein a cysteine residue occurs outside the epitope regions of the parent amino acid sequence, it is preferable to substitute another amino acid residue for in each of those positions to enable selective coupling with one or more addition moieties in the epitope region(s). Cysteine is the most preferred substituting amino acid for substitution in one or more of the epitope regions.

Other preferred substituting amino acids include lysine. Wherein the substituting amino acid is lysine, it is preferred to mutate lysine residues occurring outside the epitope regions of the parent amino acid sequence to another amino acid residue such

that functionalization of one or more of the lysine residues in the epitope regions is selective. For example, a lysine residue occurs at position 237 of subtilisin BPN⁺ which is in the third epitope region. Site-selective mutation of all other lysine residues occurring in the subtilisin BPN⁺ sequence may be performed followed by selective functionalization of the lysine residue in the third epitope region with an addition moiety. Alternatively, positions in the epitope regions may be mutated to lysine followed by selective functionalization at those positions by a polymer moiety.

Addition Moieties

The protease conjugates of the present invention further comprise one or more addition moieties wherein each of the addition moieties is covalently attached to one of the substituting amino acids present in one of the epitope regions and has the structure:



wherein X is selected from nil and a linking moiety; R₁ is selected from the group consisting of nil, a first polypeptide, and a first polymer; and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of nil, a second polypeptide, and a second polymer, wherein at least one of X, R₁, and R₂ is not nil.

Preferably, from 1 to about 15, more preferably from about 2 to about 10, and most preferably from about 1 to about 5 addition moieties comprise the protease conjugate.

Wherein R₁ and R₂ are each, independently, polypeptide moieties or polymer moieties. R₁ and R₂ may be equivalent or different. Preferably, wherein R₁ is a polypeptide moiety, R₂ is selected from nil and a polypeptide moiety, and is most preferably nil. Most preferably, wherein R₁ is a polypeptide moiety, R₂ is selected from nil and an equivalent polypeptide moiety, and is most preferably nil. Preferably, wherein R₁ is a polymer moiety, R₂ is selected from nil and a polymer moiety. Most preferably, wherein R₁ is a polymer moiety, R₂ is selected from nil and an equivalent polymer moiety. Wherein at least one of R₁ and R₂ are respectively, the first polymer and the second polymer, then X is preferably not nil.

Polypeptide Moieties

The polypeptide moieties described herein include those comprising two or more amino acid residues. Preferred polypeptide moieties are selected from proteins, including enzymes. Preferred enzymes include proteases, cellulases, lipases, amylases, peroxidases, microperoxidases, hemicellulases, xylanases, phospholipases, esterases, cutinases, pectinases, keratinases, reductases (including, for example, NADH reductase), oxidases, phenoloxidases, lipoxygenases, ligninases, pullulanases, tannases, pentosanases, malanases, β -glucanases, arabinosidases, hyaluronidase, chondroitinase, laccases, transferases, isomerases (including, for example, glucose isomerase and xylóse isomerase), lyases, ligases, synthetases, and fruit-based enzymes (including, for example, papain). More preferred enzymes for use as polypeptide moieties include proteases, cellulases, amylases, lipases, and fruit-based enzymes, with proteases being even more preferred.

Examples of lipases for use as a polypeptide moiety include those derived from the following microorganisms: *Humicola*, *Pseudonomas*, *Fusarium*, *Mucor*, *Chromobacterium*, *Aspergillus*, *Candida*, *Geotricum*, *Penicillium*, *Rhizopus*, and *Bacillus*.

Examples of commercial lipases include Lipolase[®], Lipolase Ultra[®], Lipozyme[®], Palatase[®], Novozym435[®], and Lecitase[®] (all of which are commercially available from Novo Nordisk A/S, Copenhagen, Denmark), Lumafast[®] (commercially available from Genencor, Int., Rochester, NY), and Lipomax[®] (Genencor, Int.).

Examples of proteases for use as the polypeptide moiety include serine proteases, chymotrypsin, and elastase-type enzymes. The most preferred proteases for use as a polypeptide moiety include serine proteases, as were defined herein above in the discussion of "protease moieties".

Most preferably, wherein the polypeptide moiety is a serine protease, the polypeptide moiety carries, independently, the definition of a protease moiety as described herein above, *i.e.*, the polypeptide moiety has a modified amino acid sequence of a parent amino acid sequence in one or more of the epitope regions as described herein above (which parent amino acid sequence may be referred to as a "second" parent amino acid sequence). In this instance, one of the linking moiety (wherein the linking moiety is

not nil) or the protease moiety (wherein the linking moiety is nil) is covalently attached to the polypeptide moiety through one of the substituting amino acids present in one of the epitope regions of the polypeptide moiety. Wherein the polypeptide moiety is a serine protease, the same preferred, more preferred, and most preferred groupings apply as are described herein above for protease moieties and their corresponding parent amino acid sequences.

Most preferably, wherein the polypeptide moiety is a serine protease, the polypeptide moiety and the protease moiety are equivalent moieties. In this instance, the polypeptide moiety and the protease moiety are preferably attached through a disulfide bridge, wherein X is nil, and most preferably, R_2 is nil.

Polymer Moieties

The addition moieties herein may comprise a polymer moiety. Examples of suitable polymer moieties include polyalkylene oxides, polyalcohols, polyvinyl alcohols, polycarboxylates, polyvinylpyrrolidones, polyamino acids, celluloses, dextrans, starches, glycogen, agaroses, guar gum, pullulan, inulin, xanthan gum, carrageenan, pectin, biopolymers, alginic acid hydrosylates, and hydrosylates of chitosan. Preferred polyalkylene oxides include polyethylene glycols, methoxypolyethylene glycols, and polypropylene glycols. Preferred dextrans include carboxymethyldextrans. Preferred celluloses include methylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, ethylcellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, carboxyethyl cellulose, and hydroxypropylcellulose. Preferred starches include hydroxyethyl starches and hydroxypropyl starches. The more preferred polymers are polyalkylene oxides. The most preferred polymer moiety is polyethylene glycol.

Wherein R_1 and R_2 are each, independently, polymer moieties, R_1 and R_2 preferably has a collective molecular weight (*i.e.*, molecular weight of R_1 plus molecular weight of R_2) of from about 0.5 kD (kilodaltons) to about 40 kD, more preferably from about 0.5 kD to about 20 kD, and most preferably from about 1 kD to about 10 kD.

Wherein R_1 and R_2 are each polymer moieties, R_1 and R_2 each, independently, preferably have a molecular weight of 0.25 kD to about 20 kD, more preferably from about 0.5 kD to about 10 kD, and most preferably from about 0.5 kD to about 5 kD.

Wherein R_1 and R_2 are each polymer moieties, the ratio of the molecular weights of R_1 and R_2 preferably ranges from about 1:10 to about 10:1, more preferably from about 1:5 to about 5:1, and most preferably from about 1:3 to about 3:1.

Wherein R_1 is a polymer moiety and R_2 is nil, R_1 preferably has a molecular weight of from about 0.5 kD to about 40 kD, more preferably from about 0.5 kD to about 20 kD, and most preferably from about 1 kD to about 10 kD.

Linking Moieties

As used herein, X may be (nil or) a linking moiety which is covalently attached to a polypeptide moiety or a polymer moiety and is also covalently attached to a single substituting amino acid present in one of the epitope regions of the protease moiety. The linking moiety is any small molecule, *i.e.*, a molecule having a molecular weight of less than about 800, preferably less than about 400, and more preferably less than about 300. The most preferred linking moieties include those capable of being covalently bound to a cysteine residue or a lysine residue, most preferably a cysteine residue. Examples of linking moieties and related chemistry are disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,446,090, Harris, issued August 29, 1995; U.S. Patent No. 5,171,264, Merrill, issued December 15, 1992; U.S. Patent No. 5,162,430, Rhee et al., issued November 10, 1992; U.S. Patent No. 5,153,265, Shadle et al., issued October 6, 1992; U.S. Patent No. 5,122,614, Zalipsky, issued June 16, 1992; Goodson et al., "Site-Directed Pegylation of Recombinant Interleukin-2 at its Glycosylation Site", *Biotechnology*, Vol. 8, No. 4, pp. 343 - 346 (1990); Kogan, "The Synthesis of Substituted Methoxy-Poly(ethylene glycol) Derivatives Suitable for Selective Protein Modification", *Synthetic Communications*, Vol. 22, pp. 2417 - 2424 (1992); and Ishii et al., "Effects of the State of the Succinimido-Ring on the Fluorescence and Structural Properties of Pyrene Maleimide-Labeled α -Tropomyosin", *Biophysical Journal*, Vol. 50, pp. 75 - 80 (1986). The most preferred linking moiety is substituted (for example, alkyl) or unsubstituted succinimide.

Method of Making

The protease moieties are prepared by mutating the nucleotide sequences that code for a parent amino acid sequence. Such methods are well-known in the art; a non-limiting example of one such method is set forth below:

A phagemid (pSS-5) containing the wild-type subtilisin BPN' gene (Mitchison, C. and J.A. Wells, "Protein Engineering of Disulfide Bonds in Subtilisin BPN'", *Biochemistry*, Vol. 28, pp. 4807 - 4815 (1989) is transformed into *Escherichia coli dut-ung-* strain CJ236 and a single stranded uracil-containing DNA template is produced using the VCSM13 helper phage (Kunkel et al., "Rapid and Efficient Site-Specific Mutagenesis Without Phenotypic Selection", *Methods in Enzymology*, Vol 154, pp. 367 - 382 (1987), as modified by Yuckenberg et al., "Site-Directed *in vitro* Mutagenesis Using Uracil-Containing DNA and Phagemid Vectors", *Directed Mutagenesis - A Practical Approach*, McPherson, M. J. ed., pp. 27 - 48 (1991). Primer site-directed mutagenesis modified from the method disclosed in Zoller, M. J., and M. Smith, "Oligonucleotide - Directed Mutagenesis Using M13 - Derived Vectors: An Efficient and General Procedure for the Production of Point Mutations in any Fragment of DNA", *Nucleic Acids Research*, Vol. 10, pp. 6487 - 6500 (1982) is used to produce all mutants (essentially as presented by Yuckenberg et al., *supra*).

Oligonucleotides are made using a 380B DNA synthesizer (Applied Biosystems Inc.). Mutagenesis reaction products are transformed into *Escherichia coli* strain MM294 (American Type Culture Collection *E. coli* 33625). All mutations are confirmed by DNA sequencing and the isolated DNA is transformed into the *Bacillus subtilis* expression strain PG632 (Saunders et al., "Optimization of the Signal-Sequence Cleavage Site for Secretion from *Bacillus subtilis* of a 34-Amino Acid Fragment of Human Parathyroid Hormone", *Gene*, Vol. 102, pp. 277 - 282 (1991) and Yang et al., "Cloning of the Neutral Protease Gene of *Bacillus subtilis* and the Use of the Cloned Gene to Create an *in vitro* - Derived Deletion Mutation", *Journal of Bacteriology*, Vol. 160, pp. 15 - 21 (1984).

Fermentation is as follows. *Bacillus subtilis* cells (PG632) containing the protease of interest are grown to mid-log phase in one liter of LB broth containing 10 g/L glucose, and inoculated into a Biostat C fermentor (Braun Biotech, Inc., Allentown, PA) in a total volume of 9 liters. The fermentation medium contains yeast extract, casein hydrosylate, soluble - partially hydrolyzed starch (Maltrin M-250), antifoam, buffers, and trace minerals (see "Biology of Bacilli: Applications to Industry", Doi, R. H. and M.

McGloughlin, eds. (1992)). The broth is kept at a constant pH of 7.5 during the fermentation run. Kanamycin (50 µg/mL) is added for antibiotic selection of the mutagenized plasmid. The cells are grown for 18 hours at 37 °C to an A_{600} of about 60 and the product harvested.

The fermentation broth is taken through the following steps to obtain pure protease. The broth is cleared of *Bacillus subtilis* cells by tangential flow against a 0.16 µm membrane. The cell-free broth is then concentrated by ultrafiltration with a 8.000 molecular weight cut-off membrane. The pH is adjusted to 5.5 with concentrated MES buffer (2-(N-morpholino)ethanesulfonic acid). The protease is further purified by cation exchange chromatography with S-sepharose and elution with NaCl gradients. See Scopes, R. K., "Protein Purification Principles and Practice", Springer-Verlag, New York (1984)

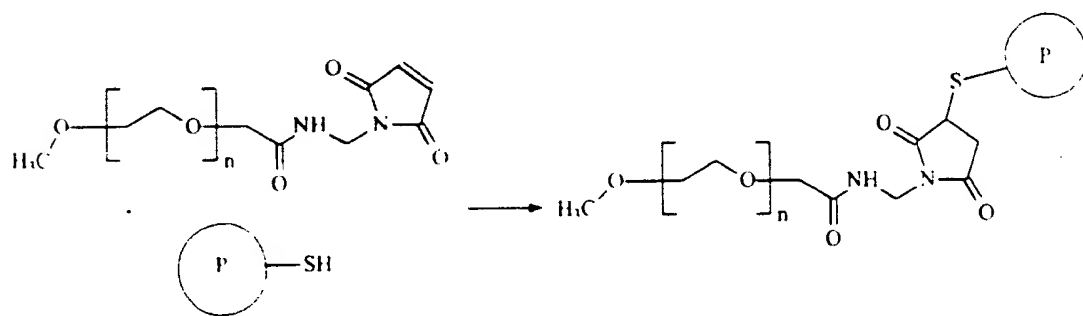
A pNA assay (DelMar et al., *Analytical Biochemistry*, Vol. 99, pp. 316 - 320 (1979)) is used to determine the active protease concentration for fractions collected during gradient elution. This assay measures the rate at which *p*-nitroaniline is released as the protease hydrolyzes the soluble synthetic substrate, succinyl-alanine-alanine-proline-phenylalanine-*p*-nitroaniline (sAAPF-*p*NA). The rate of production of yellow color from the hydrolysis reaction is measured at 410 nm on a spectrophotometer and is proportional to the active protease moiety concentration. In addition, absorbance measurements at 280 nm are used to determine the total protein concentration. The active protease/total-protein ratio gives the protease purity, and is used to identify fractions to be pooled for the stock solution.

To avoid autolysis of the protease during storage, an equal weight of propylene glycol is added to the pooled fractions obtained from the chromatography column. Upon completion of the purification procedure the purity of the stock protease solution is checked with SDS-PAGE (sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis) and the absolute enzyme concentration is determined *via* an active site titration method using trypsin inhibitor type II-T: turkey egg white (Sigma Chemical Company, St. Louis, Missouri).

In preparation for use, the protease stock solution is eluted through a Sephadex-G25 (Pharmacia, Piscataway, New Jersey) size exclusion column to remove the propylene glycol and exchange the buffer. The MES buffer in the enzyme stock solution is exchanged for 0.01 M KH_2PO_4 solution, pH 5.5.

With the protease prepared it may be utilized for functionalization with one or more addition moieties to produce the protease conjugate. The precursor to the addition moiety (the precursor to the addition moiety reacts with the precursor to the protease moiety to form the protease conjugate which is comprised of the addition moiety and the protease moiety) is preferably activated to enhance reactivity with the precursor to the protease moiety. Such activation is well-known in the art. Non-limiting examples of methods of protease conjugate preparation are provided below.

Example 1

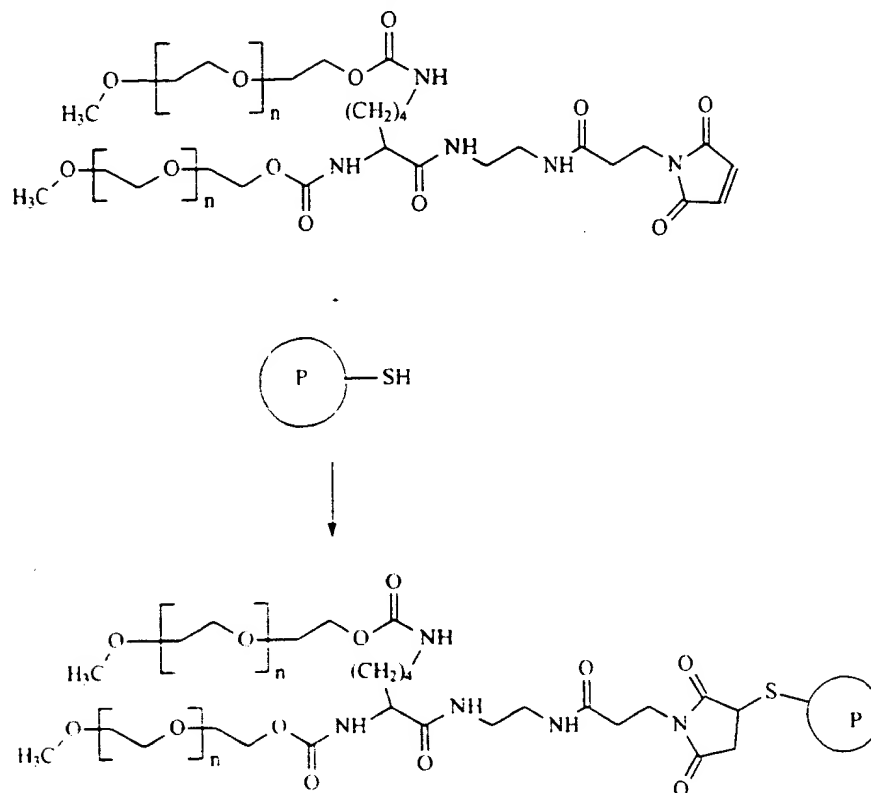


A protease comprising a cysteine residue in one of the epitope regions is coupled with a polymer moiety according to the above scheme using the following method (wherein "P" represents the protease moiety minus the thiol group resulting from the cysteine substitution and n is the number of repeating monomer units of the polyethylene glycol (for example, n = 77).

A variant of subtilisin BPN' with a substitution of leucine for tyrosine at position 217 and a substitution of cysteine for serine at position 78 is prepared. A concentration of approximately 2 mg / mL in phosphate buffer (pH 5.5) of the variant is achieved. The pH is then raised to 7.5 with dilute sodium hydroxide. The variant is mixed with the monomethyl polyethylene glycol maleimide at a 25:1 activated polymer to variant excess. After one hour of mixing at ambient temperature, the pH of the mixture is adjusted to 5.5

with dilute phosphoric acid and filtered through a molecular weight cut-off ultrafilter to remove excess polymer. The concentrate contains the purified protease conjugate.

Example 2



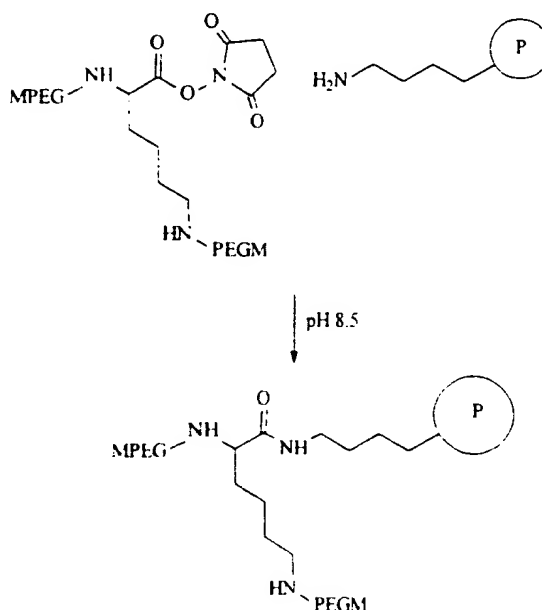
A protease moiety comprising a cysteine residue in one of the epitope regions is coupled with a polymer moiety according to the above scheme using the following method (wherein "P" represents the protease moiety minus the thiol group resulting from the cysteine substitution and n is the number of repeating monomer units of each polyethylene glycol (for example, n = 77)).

A variant of subtilisin BPN' with a substitution of leucine for tyrosine at position 217 and a substitution of cysteine for serine at position 78 is prepared. A concentration of approximately 2 mg / mL in phosphate buffer (pH 5.5) of the variant is achieved. The pH is then raised to 7.5 with dilute sodium hydroxide. The variant is mixed with the dimethyl polyethylene glycol maleimide at a 25:1 activated polymer to variant excess. After one hour of mixing at ambient temperature, the pH of the mixture is adjusted to 5.5

with dilute phosphoric acid and filtered through a molecular weight cut-off ultrafilter to remove excess polymer. The concentrate contains the purified protease conjugate.

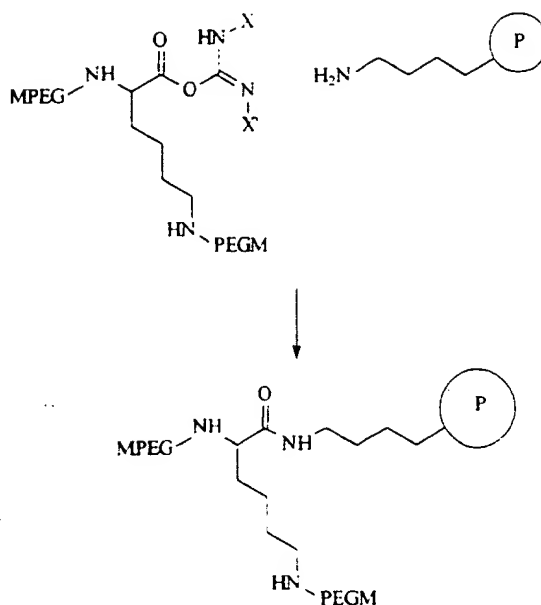
Example 3

Succinimide-protected polymer is coupled selectively to lysine in one or more of the epitope regions (wherein "MPEG" and "PEGM" are equivalent and represent monomethyl polyethylene glycols and wherein "P" represents the protease moiety minus the lysine amine group shown):

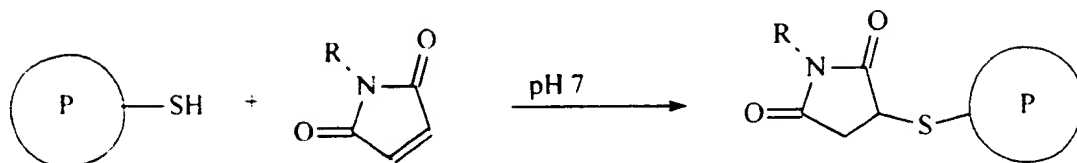


Example 4

Carbodiimide-protected polymer is coupled selectively to lysine in one or more of the epitope regions (wherein "MPEG" and "PEGM" are equivalent and represent monomethyl polyethylene glycols. "P" represents the protease moiety minus the lysine amine group shown, and X and X' are side chains comprising the carbodiimide moiety, for example, alkyls):

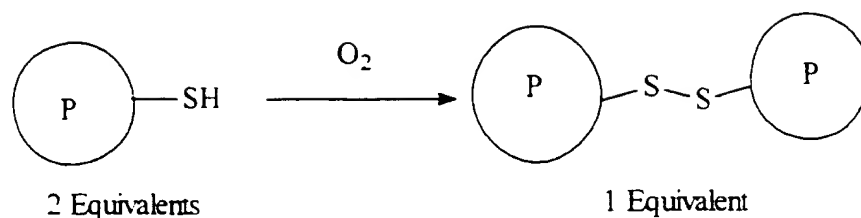


Example 5



A protease moiety comprising a cysteine residue in one of the epitope regions is coupled with an alkyl maleimide using the following method (wherein "P" represents the protease moiety minus the thiol group resulting from the cysteine substitution and "R" is an alkyl group). In this example, R₁ and R₂ are each nil and the linking moiety is derived from the alkyl maleimide.

A variant of subtilisin BPN' with a substitution of leucine for tyrosine at position 217 and a substitution of cysteine for serine at position 78 is prepared. A 20 mL solution of the variant is prepared at a concentration of approximately 1 mg / mL in 0.01 M KH₂PO₄ buffer (pH 7). To this solution, an 1.5 equivalents of alkyl maleimide (for example, methyl maleimide) is added to the solution. The solution is gently mixed at ambient temperature for approximately one hour. The resulting protease conjugate is obtained from the solution by standard methods.

Example 6

A protease moiety comprising a cysteine residue in one of the epitope regions forms a dimer using the following method (wherein "P" represents the protease moiety minus the thiol group resulting from the cysteine substitution). In this example, the protease moiety and the polypeptide moiety are equivalent (and X is nil).

A variant of subtilisin BPN' with a substitution of leucine for tyrosine at position 217 and a substitution of cysteine for serine at position 78 is prepared. A 20 mL solution of the variant is prepared at a concentration of approximately 1 mg / mL in 0.01 M KH₂PO₄ buffer (pH 8.6). Oxygen is gently bubbled through the solution at ambient temperature for approximately one hour to form the desired protease conjugate dimer. The resulting protease conjugate is obtained from the solution by standard methods.

Analytical Methods

The present protease conjugates may be tested for enzymatic activity and immunogenic response using the following methods, both of which are known to one skilled in the art. Other methods well-known in the art may alternatively be used.

Protease Conjugate Activity

The protease activity of a protease conjugate of the present invention may be assayed by methods which are well-known in the art. Two such methods are set forth herein below:

Skin Flake Activity Method

Using Scotch® #3750G tape, human skin flakes are stripped from the legs of a subject repeatedly until the tape is substantially opaque with flakes. The tape is then cut into 1 inch by 1 inch squares and set aside. In a 10 mm by 35 mm petri dish, 2 mL of 0.75 mg / mL of a control enzyme (for example, subtilisin BPN') or the protease

conjugate to be tested is added in 0.01 M KH_2PO_4 pH 5.5 buffer. To this solution 1 mL of 2.5% sodium laurate pH 8.6 solution is added. The solution is gently mixed on a platform shaker. The previously prepared tape square is soaked in the solution (flake side up) for ten minutes continuing gentle mixing. The tape square is then rinsed gently in tap water for fifteen seconds. Stevenel Blue Stain (3 mL, commercially available from Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO) is pipetted into a clean petri dish. The rinsed tape square is placed into the stain for three minutes (flake side up) with gentle mixing. The tape square is removed from the stain and rinsed consecutively in two beakers of 300 mL distilled water, for fifteen seconds per rinse. The tape square is allowed to air-dry. The color intensity between the tape square obtained from the control enzyme and the tape square obtained from the protease conjugate is compared visually or by using a chromameter. Relative to the control enzyme tape square, a protease conjugate tape square showing less color intensity is indicative of a protease conjugate having higher activity.

Dyed Collagen Activity Method

Combine 50 mL of 0.1 M tris buffer (tris-hydroxymethyl-aminomethane) containing 0.01 M CaCl_2 to give pH 8.6, and 0.5 g azocoll (azo dye impregnated collagen, commercially available from Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO). Incubate this mixture at 25 °C while gently mixing with a platform shaker. Filter 2 mL of the mixture through a 0.2 micron syringe filter and read absorbance of the mixture at 520 nm to zero a spectrophotometer. Add 1 ppm of a control enzyme (for example, subtilisin BPN') or the protease conjugate to be tested to the remaining 48 mL of tris / azocoll mixture. Filter 2 mL of the control / protease conjugate containing solution through a 0.2 micron syringe filter every two minutes for a total of ten minutes. For each filtered sample, read the absorbance immediately at 520 nm. Plot the results against time. The slopes of the control and the test conjugate are indicative of relative activities of the samples. A higher slope is indicative of a higher activity. The test protease conjugate activity (slope) may be expressed as a percent of the control activity (slope).

T-Cell Proliferation Assay

The immunogenic potential of the protease conjugates of the present invention may be determined using a methods known in the art or by the T-cell Proliferation Assay presented herein below. This assay is a variation of the assay disclosed in Bungy Poor Fard et al., "T Cell Epitopes of the Major Fraction of Rye Grass *Lolium perenne* (*Lol p 1*) Defined Using Overlapping Peptides in vitro and in vivo", *Clinical Experimental Immunology*, Vol. 94, pp. 111 - 116 (1993).

The blood of subjects allergic to subtilisin BPN' (prick test positive) and control subjects (prick test negative) are used in this assay. Blood (~ 60 mL) from each subject is collected and mononuclear cells are harvested using ficoll-hypaque (which may be obtained from Pharmacia, Piscataway, New Jersey). The cells are washed twice in RPMI 1640 (which may be obtained from Gibco, Grand Island, New York) and then resuspended in complete medium RPMI supplemented with 10% human AB-serum, 2 mM L-glutamine, and 25 µg / mL gentamicin (which may be obtained from Gibco). Cells are cultured at a concentration of 2×10^5 cells / well in 0.2 mL of complete medium in U-bottomed 96-well microtiter plates. The potential antigen to be tested (either inactivated subtilisin BPN' as positive control or a protease conjugate of the present invention) is added at a final concentration up to about 40 µg / mL. Cultures are incubated at 37 °C in 5% CO₂. After five days, 1 µCi / well of methyl-³H-thymidine is added and 18 hours later the cells are harvested. ³H-thymidine incorporation by the cell is assessed as a measure of T-cell proliferation by liquid scintillation counting.

Compositions of the Present Invention

The protease conjugates herein can be used in any application in which is suitable for the respective parent protease. One such example includes cleaning compositions. Because of the desirable reduced immunogenicity properties of the present protease conjugates, the protease conjugates may further be used in applications which have historically minimally benefited from the use of proteases. Examples of such applications include those in which the protease conjugate necessarily comes in close contact with mammalian skin (especially human skin), such as with the use of personal care compositions.

Cleaning Compositions

The protease conjugates may be utilized in cleaning compositions including, but not limited to, laundry compositions, hard surface cleansing compositions, light duty cleaning compositions including dish cleansing compositions, and automatic dishwasher detergent compositions.

The cleaning compositions herein comprise an effective amount of one or more protease conjugates of the present invention and a cleaning composition carrier.

As used herein, "effective amount of protease conjugate", or the like, refers to the quantity of protease conjugate necessary to achieve the proteolytic activity necessary in the specific cleaning composition. Such effective amounts are readily ascertained by one of ordinary skill in the art and is based on many factors, such as the particular protease conjugate used, the cleaning application, the specific composition of the cleaning composition, and whether a liquid or dry (*e.g.*, granular, bar) composition is required, and the like. Preferably, the cleaning compositions comprise from about 0.0001% to about 10%, more preferably from about 0.001% to about 1%, and most preferably from about 0.01% to about 0.1% of one or more protease conjugates of the present invention. Several examples of various cleaning compositions wherein the protease conjugates may be employed are discussed in further detail below.

In addition to the present protease conjugates, the present cleaning compositions further comprise a cleaning composition carrier comprising one or more cleaning composition materials compatible with the protease conjugate. The term "cleaning composition material", as used herein, means any material selected for the particular type of cleaning composition desired and the form of the product (*e.g.*, liquid, granule, bar, spray, stick, paste, gel), which materials are also compatible with the protease conjugate used in the composition. The specific selection of cleaning composition materials is readily made by considering the surface material to be cleaned, the desired form of the composition for the cleaning condition during use (*e.g.*, through the wash detergent use). The term "compatible", as used herein, means the cleaning composition materials do not reduce the proteolytic activity of the protease conjugate to such an extent that the

protease is not effective as desired during normal use situations. Specific cleaning composition materials are exemplified in detail hereinafter.

The protease conjugates of the present invention may be used in a variety of detergent compositions wherein high sudsing and good cleansing is desired. Thus the protease conjugates can be used with various conventional ingredients to provide fully-formulated hard-surface cleaners, dishwashing compositions, fabric laundering compositions, and the like. Such compositions can be in the form of liquids, granules, bars, and the like. Such compositions can be formulated as "concentrated" detergents which contain as much as from about 30% to about 60% by weight of surfactants.

The cleaning compositions herein may optionally, and preferably, contain various surfactants (*e.g.*, anionic, nonionic, or zwitterionic surfactants). Such surfactants are typically present at levels of from about 5% to about 35% of the compositions.

Nonlimiting examples of surfactants useful herein include the conventional C₁₁-C₁₈ alkyl benzene sulfonates and primary and random alkyl sulfates, the C₁₀-C₁₈ secondary (2,3) alkyl sulfates of the formulas CH₃(CH₂)_x(CHOSO₃⁻M⁺)CH₃ and CH₃(CH₂)_y(CHOSO₃⁻M⁺)CH₂CH₃ wherein x and (y+1) are integers of at least about 7, preferably at least about 9, and M is a water-solubilizing cation, especially sodium, the C₁₀-C₁₈ alkyl alkoxy sulfates (especially EO 1-5 ethoxy sulfates), C₁₀-C₁₈ alkyl alkoxy carboxylates (especially the EO 1-5 ethoxycarboxylates), the C₁₀-C₁₈ alkyl polyglycosides, and their corresponding sulfated polyglycosides, C₁₂-C₁₈ α-sulfonated fatty acid esters, C₁₂-C₁₈ alkyl and alkyl phenol alkoxyates (especially ethoxyates and mixed ethoxy/propoxy), C₁₂-C₁₈ betaines and sulfobetaines ("sultaines"), C₁₀-C₁₈ amine oxides, and the like. The alkyl alkoxy sulfates (AES) and alkyl alkoxy carboxylates (AEC) are preferred herein. The use of such surfactants in combination with the amine oxide and / or betaine or sultaine surfactants is also preferred, depending on the desires of the formulator. Other conventional useful surfactants are listed in standard texts. Particularly useful surfactants include the C₁₀-C₁₈ N-methyl glucamides disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 5,194,639, Connor et al., issued March 16, 1993.

A wide variety of other ingredients useful in detergent cleaning compositions can be included in the compositions herein including, for example, other active ingredients, carriers, hydrotropes, processing aids, dyes or pigments, and solvents for liquid formulations. If an additional increment of sudsing is desired, suds boosters such as the C₁₀-C₁₆ alkalamides can be incorporated into the compositions, typically at about 1% to about 10% levels. The C₁₀-C₁₄ monoethanol and diethanol amides illustrate a typical class of such suds boosters. Use of such suds boosters with high sudsing adjunct surfactants such as the amine oxides, betaines and sultaines noted above is also advantageous. If desired, soluble magnesium salts such as MgCl₂, MgSO₄, and the like, can be added at levels of, typically, from about 0.1% to about 2%, to provide additional sudsing.

The liquid detergent compositions herein may contain water and other solvents as carriers. Low molecular weight primary or secondary alcohols exemplified by methanol, ethanol, propanol, and *iso*-propanol are suitable. Monohydric alcohols are preferred for solubilizing surfactants, but polyols such as those containing from about 2 to about 6 carbon atoms and from about 2 to about 6 hydroxy groups (*e.g.*, 1,3-propanediol, ethylene glycol, glycerine, and 1,2-propanediol) can also be used. The compositions may contain from about 5% to about 90%, typically from about 10% to about 50% of such carriers.

The detergent compositions herein will preferably be formulated such that during use in aqueous cleaning operations, the wash water will have a pH between about 6.8 and about 11. Finished products thus are typically formulated at this range. Techniques for controlling pH at recommended usage levels include the use of, for example, buffers, alkalis, and acids. Such techniques are well known to those skilled in the art.

When formulating the hard surface cleaning compositions and fabric cleaning compositions of the present invention, the formulator may wish to employ various builders at levels from about 5% to about 50% by weight. Typical builders include the 1-10 micron zeolites, polycarboxylates such as citrate and oxydisuccinates, layered silicates, phosphates, and the like. Other conventional builders are listed in standard formularies.

Likewise, the formulator may wish to employ various additional enzymes, such as cellulases, lipases, amylases, and proteases in such compositions, typically at levels of from about 0.001% to about 1% by weight. Various detergent and fabric care enzymes are well-known in the laundry detergent art.

Various bleaching compounds, such as the percarbonates, perborates and the like, can be used in such compositions, typically at levels from about 1% to about 15% by weight. If desired, such compositions can also contain bleach activators such as tetraacetyl ethylenediamine, nonanoyloxybenzene sulfonate, and the like, which are also known in the art. Usage levels typically range from about 1% to about 10% by weight.

Soil release agents, especially of the anionic oligoester type, chelating agents, especially the aminophosphonates and ethylenediaminedisuccinates, clay soil removal agents, especially ethoxylated tetraethylene pentamine, dispersing agents, especially polyacrylates and polyaspartates, brighteners, especially anionic brighteners, suds suppressors, especially silicones and secondary alcohols, fabric softeners, especially smectite clays, and the like can all be used in such compositions at levels ranging from about 1% to about 35% by weight. Standard formularies and published patents contain multiple, detailed descriptions of such conventional materials.

Enzyme stabilizers may also be used in the cleaning compositions. Such enzyme stabilizers include propylene glycol (preferably from about 1% to about 10%), sodium formate (preferably from about 0.1% to about 1%) and calcium formate (preferably from about 0.1% to about 1%).

The present variants are useful in hard surface cleaning compositions. As used herein "hard surface cleaning composition" refers to liquid and granular detergent compositions for cleaning hard surfaces such as floors, walls, bathroom tile, and the like. Hard surface cleaning compositions of the present invention comprise an effective amount of one or more protease conjugates of the present invention, preferably from about 0.001% to about 10%, more preferably from about 0.01% to about 5%, and more preferably still from about 0.05% to about 1% by weight of protease conjugate of the composition. In addition to comprising one or more of the protease conjugates, such hard surface cleaning compositions typically comprise a surfactant and a water-soluble

sequestering builder. In certain specialized products such as spray window cleaners, however, the surfactants are sometimes not used since they may produce a filmy and / or streaky residue on the glass surface.

The surfactant component, when present, may comprise as little as 0.1% of the compositions herein, but typically the compositions will contain from about 0.25% to about 10%, more preferably from about 1% to about 5% of surfactant.

Typically the compositions will contain from about 0.5% to about 50% of a detergency builder, preferably from about 1% to about 10%.

Preferably the pH should be in the range of about 7 to 12. Conventional pH adjustment agents such as sodium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, or hydrochloric acid can be used if adjustment is necessary.

Solvents may be included in the compositions. Useful solvents include, but are not limited to, glycol ethers such as diethyleneglycol monohexyl ether, diethyleneglycol monobutyl ether, ethyleneglycol monobutyl ether, ethyleneglycol monohexyl ether, propyleneglycol monobutyl ether, dipropyleneglycol monobutyl ether, and diols such as 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,3-pentanediol and 2-ethyl-1,3-hexanediol. When used, such solvents are typically present at levels of from about 0.5% to about 15%, more preferably from about 3% to about 11%.

Additionally, highly volatile solvents such as *iso*-propanol or ethanol can be used in the present compositions to facilitate faster evaporation of the composition from surfaces when the surface is not rinsed after "full strength" application of the composition to the surface. When used, volatile solvents are typically present at levels of from about 2% to about 12% in the compositions.

Examples 7 - 12

Liquid Hard Surface Cleaning Compositions

	Ex. 7	Ex. 8	Ex. 9	Ex. 10	Ex. 11	Ex. 12
Protease Conjugate of Example 3	0.05 %	0.50 %	0.02 %	0.03 %	0.30 %	0.05 %
EDTA	-	-	2.90 %	2.90 %	-	-

Sodium Citrate	-	-	-	-	2.90 %	2.90 %
NaC ₁₂ Alkyl- benzene sulfonate	1.95 %	-	1.95 %	-	1.95 %	-
NaC ₁₂ Alkylsulfate	-	2.20 %	-	2.20 %	-	2.20 %
NaC ₁₂ (ethoxy) sulfate	-	2.20 %	-	2.20 %	-	2.20 %
C ₁₂ Dimethylamine oxide	-	0.50 %	-	0.50 %	-	0.50 %
Sodium cumene sulfonate	1.30 %	-	1.30 %	-	1.30 %	-
Hexyl Carbitol	6.30 %	6.30 %	6.30 %	6.30 %	6.30 %	6.30 %
Water	90.4 %	88.3 %	87.53 %	85.87 %	87.25 %	85.85 %

All formulas are adjusted to pH 7.

In another embodiment of the present invention, dishwashing compositions comprise one or more variants of the present invention. As used herein, "dishwashing composition" refers to all forms of compositions for cleaning dishes including, but not limited to, granular and liquid forms.

Examples 13 - 16

Liquid Dish Detergent

	Ex. 13	Ex. 14	Ex. 15	Ex. 16
Protease Conjugate of Example 1	0.05 %	0.50 %	0.02 %	0.40 %
C ₁₂ - C ₁₄ N-methyl glucamide	0.90 %	0.90 %	0.90 %	0.90 %
C ₁₂ ethoxy (1) sulfate	12.0 %	12.0 %	12.0 %	12.0 %
2-Methyl undecanoic acid	4.50 %	4.50 %	4.50 %	4.50 %
C ₁₂ ethoxy (2) carboxylate	4.50 %	4.50 %	4.50 %	4.50 %
C ₁₂ alcohol ethoxylate (4)	3.00 %	3.00 %	3.00 %	3.00 %
C ₁₂ amine oxide	3.00 %	3.00 %	3.00 %	3.00 %
Sodium cumene sulfonate	2.00 %	2.00 %	2.00 %	2.00 %
Ethanol	4.00 %	4.00 %	4.00 %	4.00 %
Mg ²⁺ (as MgCl ₂)	0.20 %	0.20 %	0.20 %	0.20 %
Ca ²⁺ (as CaCl ₂)	0.40 %	0.40 %	0.40 %	0.40 %
Water	65.45 %	65 %	65.48 %	65.1 %

All formulas are adjusted to pH 7.

Examples 17 - 19

Liquid Fabric Cleaning Compositions

	Ex. 17	Ex. 18	Ex. 19
Protease Conjugate of Example 4	0.05 %	0.03 %	0.30 %
Sodium C ₁₂ - C ₁₄ alkyl sulfate	20.0 %	20.0 %	20.0 %
2-Butyl octanoic acid	5.0 %	5.0 %	5.0 %
Sodium citrate	1.0 %	1.0 %	1.0 %
C ₁₀ Alcohol ethoxylate (3)	13.0 %	13.0 %	13.0 %
Monoethanolamine	2.50 %	2.50 %	2.50 %
Water/propylene glycol/ethanol (100:1:1)	58.45 %	58.47 %	58.20 %

Personal Care Compositions

The present protease conjugates are particularly suited for use in personal care compositions such as, for example, leave-on and rinse-off hair conditioners, shampoos, leave-on and rinse-off acne compositions, facial milks and conditioners, shower gels, soaps, foaming and non-foaming facial cleansers, cosmetics, hand, facial, and body lotions, moisturizers, patches, and masks, leave-on facial moisturizers, cosmetic and cleansing wipes, oral care compositions, catamenials, and contact lens care compositions. The present personal care compositions comprise one or more protease conjugates of the present invention and a personal care carrier.

To illustrate, the present protease conjugates are suitable for inclusion in the compositions described in the following references: U.S. Pat. No. 5,641,479, Linares et al., issued June 24, 1997 (skin cleansers); U.S. Pat. No. 5,599,549, Wivell et al., issued February 4, 1997 (skin cleansers); U.S. Pat. No. 5,585,104, Ha et al., issued December 17, 1996 (skin cleansers); U.S. Pat. No. 5,540,852, Kefauver et al., issued July 30, 1996 (skin cleansers); U.S. Pat. No. 5,510,050, Dunbar et al., issued April 23, 1996 (skin cleansers); U.S. Pat. No. 5,612,324, Guang Lin et al., issued March 18, 1997 (anti-acne preparations); U.S. Pat. No. 5,587,176, Warren et al., issued December 24, 1996 (anti-acne preparations); U.S. Pat. No. 5,549,888, Venkateswaran, issued August 27, 1996 (anti-acne preparations); U.S. Pat. No. 5,470,884, Corless et al., issued November 28, 1995 (anti-acne preparations); U.S. Pat. No. 5,650,384, Gordon et al., issued July 22, 1997 (shower gels); U.S. Pat. No. 5,607,678, Moore et al., issued March 4, 1997 (shower gels); U.S. Pat. No. 5,624,666, Coffindaffer et al., issued April 29, 1997 (hair conditioners and / or shampoos); U.S. Pat. No. 5,618,524, Bolich et al., issued April 8, 1997 (hair conditioners and / or shampoos); U.S. Pat. No. 5,612,301, Inman, issued March 18, 1997 (hair conditioners and / or shampoos); U.S. Pat. No. 5,573,709, Wells, issued November 12, 1996 (hair conditioners and / or shampoos); U.S. Pat. No. 5,482,703, Pings, issued January 9, 1996 (hair conditioners and / or shampoos); U.S. Pat. No. Re. 34,584, Grote et al., Reissued April 12, 1994 (hair conditioners and / or shampoos); U.S. Pat. No. 5,641,493, Date et al., issued June 24, 1997 (cosmetics); U.S. Pat. No. 5,605,894, Blank et al., issued February 25, 1997 (cosmetics); U.S. Pat. No. 5,585,090, Yoshioka et al., issued December 17, 1996 (cosmetics); U.S. Pat. No. 4,939,179, Cheney et al., issued July 3, 1990 (hand, face, and / or body lotions); U.S. Pat.

No. 5,607,980, McAtee et al., issued March 4, 1997 (hand, face, and / or body lotions); U.S. Pat. No. 4,045,364, Richter et al., issued August 30, 1977 (cosmetic and cleansing wipes); European Patent Application, EP 0 619 074, Touchet et al., published October 12, 1994 (cosmetic and cleansing wipes); U.S. Pat. No. 4,975,217, Brown-Skrobot et al., issued December 4, 1990 (cosmetic and cleansing wipes); U.S. Pat. No. 5,096,700, Seibel, issued March 17, 1992 (oral cleaning compositions); U.S. Pat. No. 5,028,414, Sampathkumar, issued July 2, 1991 (oral cleaning compositions); U.S. Pat. No. 5,028,415, Benedict et al., issued July 2, 1991 (oral cleaning compositions); U.S. Pat. No. 5,028,415, Benedict et al., issued July 2, 1991 (oral cleaning compositions); U.S. Pat. No. 4,863,627, Davies et al., September 5, 1989 (contact lens cleaning solutions); U.S. Pat. No. Re. 32,672, Huth et al., reissued May 24, 1988 (contact lens cleaning solutions); and U.S. Pat. No. 4,609,493, Schafer, issued September 2, 1986 (contact lens cleaning solutions).

To further illustrate oral cleaning compositions of the present invention, a pharmaceutically-acceptable amount of one or more protease conjugates of the present invention is included in compositions useful for removing proteinaceous stains from teeth or dentures. As used herein, "oral cleaning compositions" refers to dentifrices, toothpastes, toothgels, toothpowders, mouthwashes, mouth sprays, mouth gels, chewing gums, lozenges, sachets, tablets, biogels, prophylaxis pastes, dental treatment solutions, and the like. Preferably, the oral cleaning compositions comprise from about 0.0001% to about 20% of one or more protease conjugates of the present invention, more preferably from about 0.001% to about 10%, more preferably still from about 0.01% to about 5%, by weight of the composition, and a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier. As used herein, "pharmaceutically-acceptable" means that drugs, medicaments, or inert ingredients which the term describes are suitable for use in contact with the tissues of humans and lower animals without undue toxicity, incompatibility, instability, irritation, allergic response, and the like, commensurate with a reasonable benefit / risk ratio.

Typically, the pharmaceutically-acceptable oral cleaning carrier components of the oral cleaning compositions of the oral cleaning compositions will generally comprise

from about 50% to about 99.99%, preferably from about 65% to about 99.99%, more preferably from about 65% to about 99%, by weight of the composition.

The pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier components and optional components which may be included in the oral cleaning compositions of the present invention are well known to those skilled in the art. A wide variety of composition types, carrier components and optional components useful in the oral cleaning compositions are disclosed in the references cited hereinabove.

In another embodiment of the present invention, denture cleaning compositions for cleaning dentures outside of the oral cavity comprise one or more protease conjugates of the present invention. Such denture cleaning compositions comprise an effective amount of one or more of the protease conjugates, preferably from about 0.0001% to about 50%, more preferably from about 0.001% to about 35%, more preferably still from about 0.01% to about 20%, by weight of the composition, and a denture cleansing carrier. Various denture cleansing composition formats such as effervescent tablets and the like are well known in the art (see, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 5,055,305, Young), and are generally appropriate for incorporation of one or more of the protease conjugates for removing proteinaceous stains from dentures.

In another embodiment of the present invention, contact lens cleaning compositions comprise one or more protease conjugates of the present invention. Such contact lens cleaning compositions comprise an effective amount of one or more of the protease conjugates, preferably from about 0.01% to about 50% of one or more of the protease conjugates, more preferably from about 0.01% to about 20%, more preferably still from about 1% to about 5%, by weight of the composition, and a contact lens cleaning carrier. Various contact lens cleaning composition formats such as tablets, liquids, and the like are well known in the art and are generally appropriate for incorporation of one or more protease conjugates of the present invention for removing proteinaceous stains from contact lens.

Examples 20 - 23

Contact Lens Cleaning Solution

	Ex. 20	Ex. 21	Ex. 22	Ex. 23
Protease Conjugate of Example 5	0.01 %	0.5 %	0.1 %	2.0 %
Glucose	50.0 %	50.0 %	50.0 %	50.0 %
Nonionic surfactant (polyoxyethylene - polyoxypropylene copolymer)	2.0 %	2.0 %	2.0 %	2.0 %
Anionic surfactant (polyoxyethylene - alkylphenylether sodium sulfricester)	1.0 %	1.0 %	1.0 %	1.0 %
Sodium Chloride	1.0 %	1.0 %	1.0 %	1.0 %
Borax	0.30 %	0.30 %	0.30 %	0.30 %
Water	45.69 %	45.20 %	45.60 %	43.70 %

Examples 24 - 27

Bodywash Products

	Ex. 24	Ex. 25	Ex. 26	Ex. 27
Water	62.62 %	65.72 %	57.72 %	60.72 %
Disodium EDTA	0.2 %	0.2 %	0.2 %	0.2 %
Glycerine	3.0 %	3.0 %	3.0 %	3.0 %
Polyquaternium 10	0.4 %	0.4 %	0.4 %	0.4 %
Sodium laureth sulphate	12.0 %	12.0 %	12.0 %	12.0 %
Cocamide MEA	2.8 %	2.8 %	2.8 %	2.8 %
Sodium lauraphoacetate	6.0 %	6.0 %	6.0 %	6.0 %
Myristic Acid	1.6 %	1.6 %	1.6 %	1.6 %
Magnesium sulphate heptahydrate	0.3 %	0.3 %	0.3 %	0.3 %
Trihydroxystearin	0.5 %	0.5 %	0.5 %	0.5 %

PEG-6 caprylic / capric triglycerides	3.0 %	-	-	-
Sucrose polyesters of cottonate fatty acid	3.0 %	-	-	-
Sucrose polyesters of behenate fatty acid	3.0 %	-	4.0 %	-
Petrolatum	-	4.0 %	8.0 %	-
Mineral Oil	-	-	-	6.0 %
DMDM Hydantoin	0.08 %	0.08 %	0.08 %	0.08 %
Protease Conjugate of Example 6	0.1 %	2.0 %	2.0 %	5.0 %
Citric Acid	1.40 %	1.40 %	1.40 %	1.40 %

Examples 28 - 31

Facewash Products

	Ex. 28	Ex. 29	Ex. 30	Ex. 31
Water	66.52 %	65.17 %	68.47 %	68.72 %
Disodium EDTA	0.1 %	0.1 %	0.2 %	0.2 %
Citric Acid	-	-	1.4 %	1.4 %
Sodium Laureth-3 Sulfate	3.0 %	3.5 %	-	-
Sodium Laureth-4 Carboxylate	3.0 %	3.5 %	-	-
Laureth-12	1.0 %	1.2 %	-	-
Polyquaternium 10	-	-	0.4 %	0.4 %
Polyquaternium 25	0.3 %	0.3 %	-	-
Glycerine	3.0 %	3.0 %	3.0 %	3.0 %
Sodium Lauroamphoacetate	-	-	6.0 %	6.0 %
Lauric Acid	6.0 %	6.0 %	3.0 %	3.0 %
Myristic Acid	-	-	3.0 %	3.0 %
Magnesium sulphate heptahydrate	2.3 %	2.0 %	2.0 %	2.0 %
Triethanol amine	4.0 %	4.0 %	4.0 %	4.0 %

Trihydroxystearin	0.5 %	0.5 %	0.5 %	0.5 %
Sucrose polyesters of behenate fatty acid	2.0 %	2.0 %	-	-
Sucrose polyesters of cottonate fatty acid	3.0 %	2.0 %	-	-
PEG-6 caprylic / capric triglycerides	-	-	-	2.0 %
Petrolatum	-	-	4.0 %	-
Mineral Oil	-	-	-	2.0 %
Cocamidopropyl betaine	2.0 %	3.0 %	1.8 %	1.8 %
Lauryl dimethylamine oxide	1.0 %	1.2 %	1.2 %	1.2 %
Dex Panthenol	1.0 %	0.25 %	0.25 %	-
DMDM Hydantoin	0.08 %	0.08 %	0.08 %	0.08 %
Protease Conjugate of Example 2	1.0 %	2.0 %	0.5 %	0.5 %
Fragrance	0.2 %	0.2 %	0.2 %	0.2 %

Examples 32 - 33

Leave-on Skin Moisturizing Composition

	Ex. 32	Ex. 33
Glycerine	5.0 %	-
Stearic acid	3.0 %	-
C ₁₁₋₁₃ Isoparaffin	2.0 %	-
Glycol stearate	1.5 %	-
Propylene glycol	-	3.0 %
Mineral oil	1.0 %	10.0 %
Sesame oil	-	7.0 %
Petrolatum	-	1.8 %
Triethanolamine	0.7 %	-
Cetyl acetate	0.65 %	-
Glyceryl stearate	0.48 %	2.0 %

TEA stearate	-	2.5 %
Cetyl alcohol	0.47 %	-
Lanolin alcohol	-	1.8 %
DEA - cetyl phosphate	0.25 %	-
Methylparaben	0.2 %	0.2 %
Propylparaben	0.12 %	0.1 %
Carbomer 934	0.11 %	-
Disodium EDTA	0.1 %	-
Protease Conjugate of Example 4	0.1 %	0.5 %
Water	84.32 %	71.1 %

Example 34

Cleansing Wipe Composition

Propylene Glycol	1.0 %
Ammonium lauryl sulfate	0.6 %
Succinic acid	4.0 %
Sodium succinate	3.2 %
Triclosan [®]	0.15 %
Protease Conjugate of Example 1	0.05 %
Water	91.0 %

The above composition is impregnated onto a woven absorbent sheet comprised of cellulose and / or polyester at about 250 % by weight of the absorbent sheet.

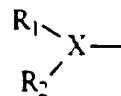
What is claimed is:

1. A protease conjugate characterized by a protease moiety and one or more addition moieties wherein:

(a) the protease moiety has a modified amino acid sequence of a parent amino acid sequence, the parent amino acid sequence comprising a first epitope region, a second epitope region, and a third epitope region, wherein the modified amino acid sequence comprises a substitution by a substituting amino acid at one or more positions in one or more of the epitope regions wherein:

- (i) when a substitution occurs in the first epitope region, the substitution occurs at one or more positions corresponding to positions 70 - 84 of subtilisin BPN';
- (ii) when a substitution occurs in the second epitope region, the substitution occurs at one or more positions corresponding to positions 103 - 126 of subtilisin BPN'; and
- (iii) when a substitution occurs in the third epitope region, the substitution occurs at one or more positions corresponding to positions 217 - 252 of subtilisin BPN'; and

(b) wherein each of the addition moieties is covalently attached to one of the substituting amino acids present on the protease moiety and has the structure:



wherein X is selected from the group consisting of nil and a linking moiety; R₁ is selected from the group consisting of nil, a first polypeptide, and a first polymer; and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of nil, a second polypeptide, and a second polymer; wherein at least one of X, R₁, and R₂ is not nil.

2. A protease conjugate according to Claim 1 wherein the substituting amino acid is cysteine.

3. A protease conjugate according to any of the preceding claims wherein the parent amino acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of subtilisin BPN', subtilisin Carlsberg, subtilisin DY, subtilisin 309, proteinase K, thermitase, Protease A, Protease B, Protease C, and Protease D, and variants thereof.
4. A protease conjugate according to any of the preceding claims wherein R₁ is nil.
5. A protease conjugate according to any of Claims 1, 2, or 3 wherein R₁ is the first polypeptide.
6. A protease conjugate according to any of Claims 1, 2, 3, or 5 wherein the first polypeptide has a modified amino acid sequence of a second parent amino acid sequence, the second parent amino acid sequence comprising a first epitope region, a second epitope region, and a third epitope region, wherein the modified amino acid sequence of the second parent amino acid sequence comprises a substitution by a substituting amino acid at one or more positions in one or more of the epitope regions of the second parent amino acid sequence wherein:
 - (i) when a substitution occurs in the first epitope region, the substitution occurs at one or more positions corresponding to positions 70 - 84 of subtilisin BPN';
 - (ii) when a substitution occurs in the second epitope region, the substitution occurs at one or more positions corresponding to positions 103 - 126 of subtilisin BPN'; and
 - (iii) when a substitution occurs in the third epitope region, the substitution occurs at one or more positions corresponding to positions 217 - 252 of subtilisin BPN'; and

wherein one of the linking moiety or the protease moiety is covalently attached to the first polypeptide through one of the substituting amino acids present on the first polypeptide.

7. A protease conjugate according to any of Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, or 6 wherein X is nil and wherein the protease moiety and the first polypeptide are covalently attached through a disulfide bridge.
8. A protease conjugate according to any of Claims 1, 2, or 3 wherein R_1 is the first polymer and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of nil and the second polymer.
9. A protease conjugate according to any of the preceding claims wherein R_2 is nil.
10. A personal care composition comprising a protease conjugate according to any of the preceding claims and a personal care carrier.

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

(i) APPLICANT: WEISGERBER, D. et al.

(ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: MODIFIED PROTEASES HAVING DECREASED IMMUNOGENICITY

(iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 1

(iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

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(D) STATE: OH
(E) COUNTRY: USA
(F) ZIP: 45061

(v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:

(A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk
(B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
(C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
(D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.30

(vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:

(A) APPLICATION NUMBER:
(B) FILING DATE:
(C) CLASSIFICATION:

(viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:

(A) NAME: HERSKO, BART S.
(B) REGISTRATION NUMBER: 32,572
(C) ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

(ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:

(A) TELEPHONE: 513-627-0633
(B) TELEFAX: 513-627-0260

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 275 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

Ala Gln Ser Val Pro Tyr Gly Val Ser Gln Ile Lys Ala Pro Ala Leu
1 5 10 15
His Ser Gln Gly Tyr Thr Gly Ser Asn Val Lys Val Ala Val Ile Asp
20 25 30
Ser Gly Ile Asp Ser Ser His Pro Asp Leu Lys Val Ala Gly Gly Ala
35 40 45

[illegible]

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internat. Application No

PCT/IB 99/00511

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 C07K14/195 C07K17/06 C07K17/08 C07K19/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 C07K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No
Y	WO 92 10755 A (NOVONORDISK AS) 25 June 1992 (1992-06-25) the whole document ---	1-10
Y	EP 0 215 662 A (MAEDA HIROSHI : AMANO PHARMA CO LTD (JP)) 25 March 1987 (1987-03-25) the whole document ---	1-10
Y	EP 0 584 876 A (STERLING WINTHROP INC) 2 March 1994 (1994-03-02) the whole document ---	1-10
Y	US 5 414 135 A (SNOW ROBERT A ET AL) 9 May 1995 (1995-05-09) the whole document -----	1-10

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C☒ Patent family members are listed in annex

Special categories of cited documents

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *C* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *V* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- *S* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

20 August 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

30/08/1999

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Internat . Application No

PCT/IB 99/00511

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